



Special Olympics

Louisiana

October 23, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As President and CEO of Special Olympics Louisiana, I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. I have followed the merger's progress and am aware of the developments of the past few days. I believe this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company.

Special Olympics Louisiana constituents can benefit from greater broadband affordability and availability. As a statewide organization, access to broadband is of great concern to my membership. Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering services that are affordable.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free modem for upgrading to DSL service. I also understand the company has offered to make available a \$10 monthly residential broadband offering as well as deliver broadband capability to *all* residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help the population we serve, primarily low-income individuals, to benefit from these services.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

PAT CARPENTER-PRESIDENT/CEO

STATE HEADQUARTERS/ 1000 East Morris Ave. / Hammond, La 70403 / voice: 1-800-345-6644 / fax: 985-345-6649

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Pat Carpenter

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President and CEO

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary

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